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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW

SUBJ: GDR ESCALATES MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRG

REFS: A) BERLIN 6350; B) BERLIN 6360

1. SUMMARY: A MAJOR EDITORIAL READ IN FULL ON GDR TELEVISION NEWS
ON AUGUST 8 AND PUBLISHED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (ND) AUGUST
9, CALLS INTO QUESTION THE ENTIRE STATE OF GDR/FRG RELATIONS
AND RAISES FOR THE FIRST TIME THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRG-
GDR TRAVEL AND VISITS REGIME COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY
THE CURRENT STATE OF TENSION ARISING FROM RECENT BORDER
INCIDENTS (SEE REFTELS). THE GDR EDITORIAL COMES IN
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RESPONSE TO MOUTING FRG REACTION TO THE SHOOTING OF

ITALIAN CITIZEN AND PCI MEMBER BENITO CORGHI BY GDR BORDER GUARDS AT THE HIRSCHBERG-HOF CROSSING POINT ON AUGUST 5 (SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. CALLING THE LATEST SHOOTING UNFORTUNATE AND NOT YET FULLY CLARIFIED, THE EDITORIAL ACCUSES THE FRG OF USING THE HIRSCHBERG INCIDENT TO JUSTIFY SUPPOSED FRG PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE GDR BORDER. IT CRITICIZES FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT FOR HAVING GIVEN "ABSOLUTION" TO THOSE WHO STAGED SUCH BORDER PROVOCATIONS IN HIS JULY 28 DECLARATION AND ALLEGES THAT CERTAIN FORCES IN THE FRG STILL REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE FRG-GDR BOUNDARY AS FIXED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND TREAT IT INSTEAD LIKE A BORDER BETWEEN TWO FRG "LAENDER", REPEATING A SIMILAR ACCUSATION IN THE JULY 28 GDR STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY FONMIN NIER (REF. B).

3. THE AUGUST 9 EDITORIAL ALSO REPEATS NIER'S ATTEMPT TO COUCH NEGATIVE FRG REACTION IN TERMS OF THE WEST GERMAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. IT ATTACKS THE CDU/CSU FOR ADVOCATING "BLACKMAIL" TACTICS IN CALLING FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE GDR AND GIVES THE CLEAREST STATEMENT TO DATE OF GDR OPPOSITION TO A CDU/CSU VICTORY IN OCTOBER.

4. THE GDR FOR THE FIRST TIME CALLS INTL QUESTION THE FUTURE OF THE FRG-GDR TRAVEL AND VISITS REGIME IN THIS EDITORIAL, WHICH ASKS WHETHER THE GDR IS WELL-ADVISED TO CONTINUE GRANTING FREE MOVEMENT IN THE GDR TO "INCITED" FRG CITIZENS IN LIGHT OF "SYSTEMATIC AGITATION" AND GROWING REVANCHISM IN THE FRG. IT FURTHER WARNS THAT THE GDR HAS MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO PROTECTING ITSELF AND ITS CITIZENS, BUT CONCLUDES THAT THE GDR STILL SUPPORTS DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION WITH THE FRG.

4. AS PART OF THIS ESCALATED MEDIA OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE FRG, ND COMPLEMENTED THE ABOVE PAGE 2 EDITORIAL AUGUST 9 WITH LARGE-SCALE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE OF FRG POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTING AN NPD CONGRESS IN HAMBURG AUGUST 7. THE ARTICLE, REplete WITH PHOTOS OF ALLEGED FRG POLICE ACTIONS, PROCLAIMS THAT FRG POLICE WERE SENT OUT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LARGE NUMBER TO PROTECT A "NEO NAZI" MEETING AND EMPLOYED DEMONSTRATORS. GDR COVERAGE EMPHASIZES "REVANCHIST" AND ANTI-COMMUNIST PRONOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE MEETING, INCLUDING REPORTED CALLS FOR REACQUISITION OF GERMAN'S FORMER EASTERN TERRITORIES AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE GDR.

6. COMMENT: THE GDR IS CLEARLY IN A BIND, FACING CRITICISM FROM THE FRG, ITALY AND EVEN THE PCI FOR THE HIRSCHBERG

SHOOTING AND THE PROSPECT THAT THE FRG WILL RAISE RECENT INCIDENTS ALONG THE GDR BORDER AT THE UNGA. IN ATTEMPTING TO PORTRAY THE INCIDENTS AS THE RESULT OF SYSTEMATIC BORDER PROVOCATIONS BY INCREASINGLY CONSERVATIVE AND REVANCH-IST FRG, THE GDR SEEKS TO DEFLECT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ITSELF BY LAUNCHING ITS OWN. ALTHOUGH CALLING THE FRG-GDR TRAVEL REGIME INTO QUESTION REPRESENTS A SUFFICIENT ESCALATION IN POLEMICS AND BELIES THE POTENTIAL SERIOUSNESS OF THE CURRENT NAME-CALLING CAMPAIGN, THE GDR HAS REAFFIRMED ITS CONTINUED INTEREST IN DETENTE AND NORMALIZATION WITH THE FRG.COOPER

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